

Please replace the paragraph beginning at column 3, line 52, of the patent with the following revised paragraph:

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FIG. 1 shows a first preferred embodiment of the present invention. An engine crankshaft 1 is connected to pistons through respective connecting rods in a known manner for receiving the driving power therefrom. An elastic plate 2 of this example is substantially of a disc shape, and is fixed, at its inner portion 2f, to one shaft end of the crankshaft 1 by a plurality of bolts 3. The elastic plate 2 [is formed at its] has an outer peripheral [edge] portion 2b which is formed with an axially extending [section] flange 2a to which a ring gear R is fixed. The ring gear R engages with pinion gears of an engine starter motor for transmitting the driving power from the engine starter motor to the crankshaft 1 when starting the engine.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please cancel Fig. 5 of the drawings. A separate request for the cancellation of Fig. 5 was previously included in a Letter to the Official Draftsperson filed on May 20, 1997.